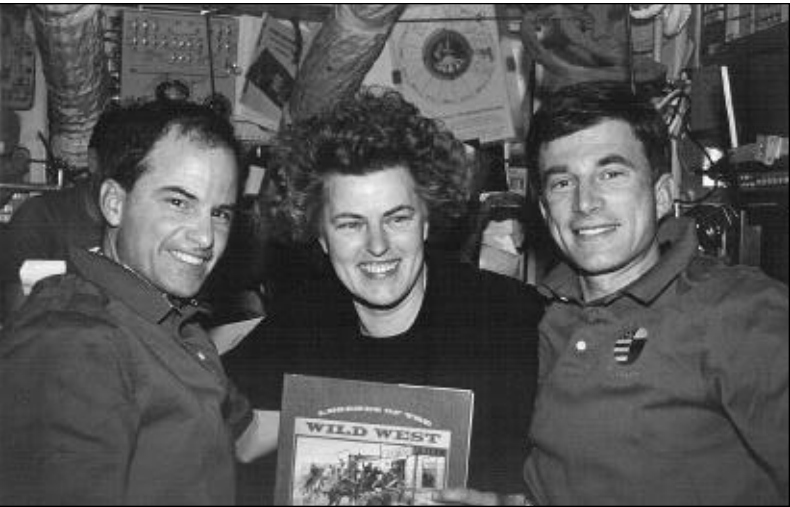
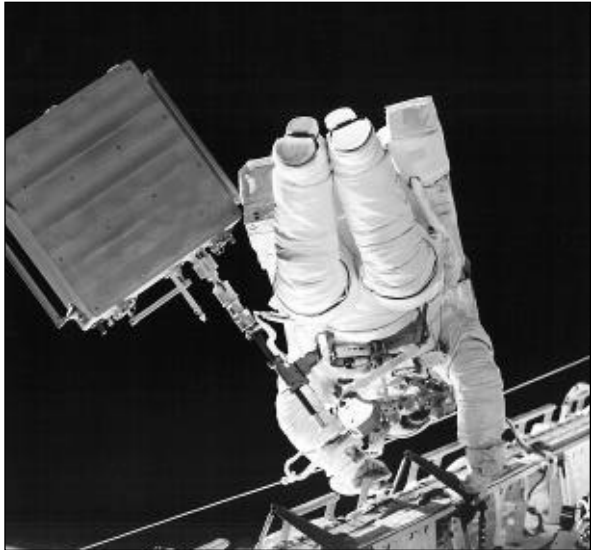
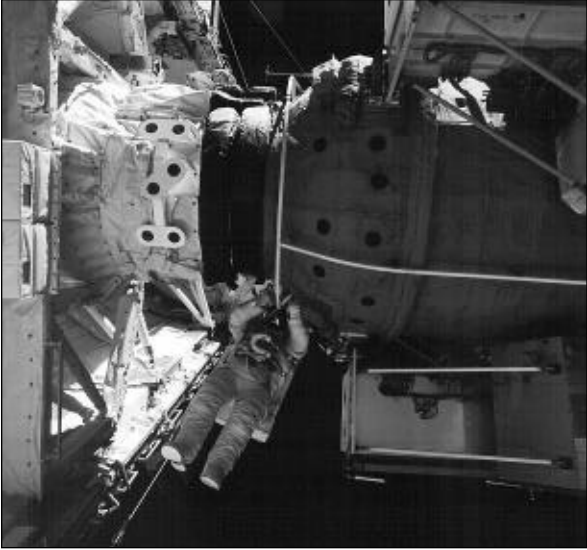




# Triple Play

## For third time, *Atlantis* docks with Russia's Mir Space Station



Usually, it would be considered “bad form” to launch a space shuttle with six crew members and land with only five. But on STS-76, that was the plan all along.

Commander Kevin Chilton, Pilot Rick Searfoss and Mission Specialists Ron Sega, Linda Godwin and Rich Clifford left crew mate Shannon Lucid aboard the Russian Mir Space Station for a five-month stay on the science outpost.

Lucid's stay marks the beginning of a continual presence in space for U.S. astronauts. In addition, The five members of *Atlantis*' crew gave credit for the perfect flight to exceptional teamwork both in space and on the ground and returned with photos to share.

From left to right, top to bottom:

1) Clifford prepares to move a gyrodyne from *Atlantis* to Mir. The gyrodyne—which provides attitude control and stability—was later installed in the base block module on the station.

2) Back-dropped against a array of clouds over the south Pacific Ocean, the Mir is seen from the aft flight deck of *Atlantis*.

3) The “Spirit of '76” in-flight crew portrait includes, front row from left, Godwin, Chilton and Searfoss. Back row from left are Clifford, Lucid and Sega.

4) After docking, Lucid, right, becomes part of the Mir 21 crew

that includes Commander Yuri Onufrienko, left, and Flight Engineer Yuri Usachev.

5) Once the hatches between the two spacecraft are opened, an in-space tradition continues with Chilton, right, shaking hands with Onufrienko in the tunnel connecting *Atlantis* to the Russian space station.

6) For the first time in space history, Clifford performs a space walk while *Atlantis* is attached to the Mir station. Clifford works to place experiments on the docking module of the Mir to analyze the space environment around the station.

7) Godwin joins Clifford in performing space history with the first docked space walk and makes her way from *Atlantis*' cargo bay with the Mir Environmental Effects Payload, or MEEP, to the Docking Module on Mir.

8) Searfoss traverses through the maze of Mir's modules with camera in hand.

9) Clifford, left, and Godwin pre-breathe—a normal procedure for space walkers—to prepare for their space walk to the Mir docking module.

10) A “floor” of clouds is the backdrop for *Atlantis* during rendezvous and docking operations with the Mir.

11) In Mir's base block module, Lucid prepares to bid farewell to the STS-76 crew. From left are Chilton, Lucid and Sega. □